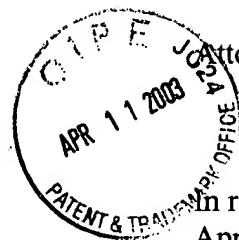


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Attorney's Docket No. 35780/233666 (5780-5)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Talarico *et al.* Confirmation No.: 8297
 Appl No.: 09/934,300 Group Art Unit: 1645
 Filed: August 21, 2001 Examiner: Sarvamangala J N Devi
 For: METHODS FOR THE PURIFICATION OF POLYOXYETHYLENE (POE)

April 11, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

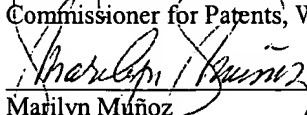
This is in response to the Office Action dated March 31, 2003, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-11, and Group II, namely Claims 12-19. Applicant hereby provisionally elects without traverse to prosecute the claims of Group II (Claims 12-19) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew O. Scheinman
 Registration No. 50,730

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| <p>CUSTOMER NO. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200 Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260</p> | <p>"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EL 868644059 US Date of Deposit: April 11, 2003 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.  Marilyn Muñoz</p> |
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